



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**Press Release**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that Judge Claude M. Hilton sentenced Ruben Moreno, Jr., age 36, of Knoxville, Tennessee, to eight months home detention in connection with a wire fraud scheme perpetrated against Moreno's former employer, America Online, Inc. (AOL) in 2003. Moreno worked at AOL as a Vice President for Human Resources.

Moreno conspired with Gregory Horton, AOL's Executive Vice President of Human Resources at AOL in Dulles, Virginia, to have AOL pay \$100,000 to an outside consultant for non-existent work. After receiving the funds and in accordance with Horton's directions, the outside consultant transferred the funds to a company owned by Horton and Moreno.

In 2000 and 2001, using a similar scheme involving phony consulting contracts, Horton and Moreno defrauded AutoNation, which is located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, of approximately \$1.5 million. Prior to working for AOL, Horton worked at AutoNation as a Vice President of Human Resources. Moreno worked at AutoNation as a Director of Human Resources for Field Operations.

In connection with the fraud on both AOL and AutoNation, Horton earlier pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud in the Eastern District of Virginia and, on April 19, 2005, was sentenced to a 46 months incarceration.

The investigation was conducted by Special Agents of the FBI. The prosecution of the case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Learned.

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